

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW ANOLIS FROM CUBA.

BY T. BARBOUR AND C. T. RAMSDEN.

Not long ago Doctor Stejneger kindly loaned us for study a number of specimens of *Anolis* collected by Messrs. Palmer and Riley in Cuba during the year 1900. He is preparing a report upon this collection for publication and noted that it contained this new species. Nevertheless since we also had the species in manuscript he has generously allowed us to describe it. For this courtesy we owe him our sincere thanks. This pretty little lizard may be called

Anolis mestrei sp. nov. •

Type, M. C. Z. No. 11,285 from the Valley of Luis Lazo, Western Pinar del Rio, Cuba, collected in March, 1915, by T. Barbour. Paratypes M. C. Z. No. 11,286, from the same locality, also U. S. Nat. Mus. Nos. 26,731, 32, 33 from San Diego de los Baños and No. 27,344 from "El Guamá," a finca near the city of Pinar del Rio, all four specimens from the Palmer and Riley collection.

Description of the type.—Head with two slightly diverging ridges on the frontal region; forehead concave; all the head scales rather feebly keeled; seen from in front rostral about the same height as the mentals; six elongate scales between the nostrils; a single series of scales separating the supraocular semicircles; occipital slightly smaller than ear opening, separated from the supraocular semicircles by about four rows of scales, which are very much larger than the dorsal granules and slightly larger than the scales which bound the occipital posteriorly; supraorbital disc composed of about six large and a few additional smaller but somewhat enlarged scales; these are all very feebly keeled and arranged in gradation, the largest scales nearest the scales of the semicircles, which they match in size; there are about 3 series of enlarged scutes in the discs; disc separated from semicircles by one row of granules; three or four scales between the superciliaries and the supraorbital semicircles bounding the area of the supraorbital granules anteriorly; canthus rostralis sharp, consisting of five or six elongate shields which are

continuous with the superciliaries; loreal rows five or six; subocular semicircles in contact with supralabials; supralabials six, the suture between the fifth and sixth under the centre of the eye; temporals excessively minute, granular, no enlarged series forming a supratemporal line; dorsal and lateral scales minute, granular, none on the middorsal line enlarged; ventral scales medium in size, flat, imbricate, without trace of keel; scales of throat and chest also smooth; forelimbs above with small, imbricate, very feebly keeled scales, smaller than the ventrals; femur and tibia with similar but slightly larger and smooth or very feebly keeled scales; fingers and toes above not distinctly carinate; digital expansion narrow, about 15 lamellae under phalanges II and III of fourth toe; tail broken in type; (in U. S. N. M. No. 26,731—tail long, compressed, without a "fin," divided into irregular segments of about 5, keeled scales each, the limiting row of each segment slightly enlarged); in type, dewlap rather large, with smooth scales, anterior edge slightly thickened; post-anal scales not enlarged.

Color of the type in life, mottled gray brown, of more or less a "salt and pepper" appearance. Dewlap white, with a large rich red brown spot at its base, surrounded by the white; the scales of the brown area white like the rest, the skin only colored. Belly whitish but throat with longitudinal dark lines. (All the paratypes show this character.)

Variation.—There is marked variation in the degree of carination of the head shields. U. S. N. M. No. 26,931 has them almost smooth, yet we can not believe that this specimen represents a separate species.

Habits.—The species seems to be one which is found almost wholly along the edges of woods on the trunks of trees and in shrubbery. The first author observed it often in the Valley of Luis Lazo and on his return was surprised to find but two specimens among the Anoles secured. While there with Prof. de la Torre and his assistant Señor V. J. Rodriguez, Barbour's companion, Mr. W. S. Brooks, was taken with a very severe fever and in the hurried packing up of our booty and rather precipitate departure we fear that some specimens may have been left behind. Suffice it then to say that we recognized the species at once in life as one completely unknown to us and one which we have not seen elsewhere during our many journeys throughout Cuba. Mr. and Mrs. Barbour collected during part of 1912 at San Diego de los Baños but failed to find the creature there as Palmer and Riley did—probably because they were at San Diego during a singularly cool and dry season when all Anoles were rare.

We have named this species for an old friend, Doctor Aristides Mestre, Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of Havana.